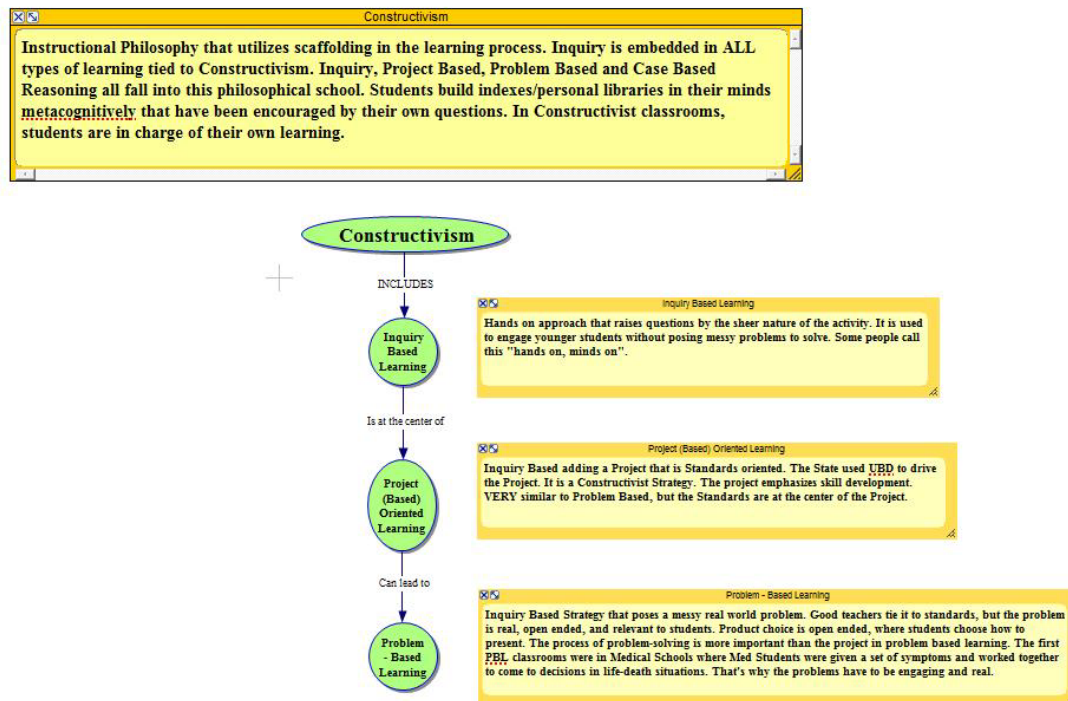


Coaching Student Questioning

Inquiry, Project and Problem-Based learning are all members of the constructivist educational philosophy. Student inquiry lies at the very heart of the philosophy. Inquiry drives learning in all three learning strategies. Out of inquiry it is important for students to learn to ask questions that will elicit thoughtful answers from search engines, interviewees, community members, and other sources that are involved in helping students acquire information.



Student questioning, then should be "thicker" or richer than asking questions that are one word answers or require little critical thinking. When students begin to plan their questioning activities in the Project or Problem Based Learning unit, they should begin to ask richer questions such as:

What motives led to increased trade at different periods of time in world history? Instead of:

What products were traded on the Silk Road?

OR

How do events around the world affect global oil demand and the cost of gasoline in the United States?
Instead of:

What countries in the world impact oil prices?

OR

Given the present circumstances in the global economy, what role will alternative energies play in the next decade? Instead of:

What countries benefit from the global economy?